

ACEC/PA

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES *of Pennsylvania*

January 6, 2012

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

As we begin a new year, allow me to reiterate the critical time that the Commonwealth's business community finds itself. Fortunately, over the past month, the state has seen a slight reduction in its unemployment claims and monthly unemployment rate. This is very welcomed news, however the opportunity to improve those numbers and add much-needed jobs to our economy still exists. Action must be taken now.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) represents 125 engineering consulting firms in the Commonwealth. These firms employ over 10,000 people with good, family-sustaining jobs. Many of these jobs have been dependent upon a healthy transportation infrastructure investment by the Commonwealth. As you know, there has not been a significant increase in infrastructure funding by the state since 1997. Since then, the state has seen its buying power drop significantly. According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy's report, *Building a Better Gas Tax*, the state's stagnant gas tax is essentially costing us \$232 million per year in lost buying power. Our inactions are not maintaining current spending levels. We are actually losing ground, losing the soundness of our transportation network, losing our competitive edge and more importantly losing jobs.

The membership in ACEC/PA is based upon the number of people that are employed by each firm. Since 2008, the number of people employed by ACEC/PA member firms has decreased by 2,679. That is nearly 20 percent of our membership. Those are Pennsylvania jobs that were either relocated to other areas of the country because of greater opportunity for work, lost due to mergers and acquisitions, corporate bankruptcy filings, corporate restructurings or outright furloughs. If new revenue for infrastructure funding does not occur in 2012, this number will continue to grow.

We need your leadership. New transportation funding must be a significant part of your jobs program for Fiscal Years 2012-2013. ACEC/PA, other business-oriented institutions and many small businesses are depending on you and the General Assembly to bring these jobs back, keep our citizens employed and move our economy once again. As you prepare for your trade mission to Europe this spring, I hope you are successful to entice more international business in Pennsylvania. However, businesses will only come if they can deliver their products on a world-class infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome an opportunity to personally discuss this further with you. Please do not hesitate contact me at (800) 651-1946 ext. 110.

Sincerely,



Eric G. Madden
Executive Vice President

cc: The Honorable Barry J. Schoch, P.E., Secretary of Transportation

800 North Third Street, Suite 301, Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone: 800-651-1946 • Fax: 800-651-1947 • Website: www.acecpa.org